

Upcoming Events

Business Meeting: next Sunday, April 14 at 4:30 p.m.
Ladies Bible Class: April 21
Panera Bread Open Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
Hebrews class Thursdays at 11:00

“Don’t worry”

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. “And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

April Birthdays

1 Daniel McKnight 3 Amanda Hoffman 6 Susan Hudson
16 Alana Hudson 17 Belva Meanor
23 Shannon Hudson 26 Stori Rose Hoffman

April Anniversaries

19 Bill & Kena Brown

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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Looking in the Wrong Places

By John M. Buttrey II

It’s frustrating when we have misplaced something important and cannot find it. We search and search for that which is lost, hoping it can be found. The frustration of the search is compounded in that we often keep looking in the wrong places.

As a Christian, there may be times when one feels like something is missing in their walk with God. What is missing could be (and often is) described as a truly fulfilling experience as a Christian.

Sometimes we may search for that which we think is missing in inspiring sermons by the preacher. Week after week, we look to a man’s presentation of the Word of God to provide the something missing in our walk with God. Sermons can indeed inspire, instruct, challenge and correct. However, if we are looking for sermons to provide lasting fulfillment as a child of God, we are going to be often disappointed.

Others search for the missing part in the congregation’s singing. Songs sung with lots of voices and beautiful melodies are certainly nice to hear. It is wonderful when songs are sung in tune with encouraging or comforting words. While songs can indeed inspire, they are not the source for true and lasting fulfillment as a Christian.

A number of Christians look for fulfillment in large congregations. More voices singing. More people in classes adding comments. More hands to shake and hugs to give and receive. However, true and lasting fulfillment as a Christian will not always be found in large congregations, nor in those that are small.

What about social activities with other Christians? It's fun to get together with others to share meals, or have potlucks at the park, or participate in game nights. However, sad to say, this too will not give us lasting fulfillment as a child of God. In fact, we can find these same types of activities in a softball league or other secular social events.

So where is one to look? I would suggest one look to the cross. It is there we see the love of God (John 3:16). It is there we see the price for our sins being paid (Acts 20:28). It is at the cross we find the meaning of sacrifice (Matthew 16:24). It is at the cross we will find what has been missing in our walk with God.

Yes, preachers can point us to the cross. Yes, songs can remind us of the cross. Yes, relationships with other Christians can help us to remember the cross. However, the cross must be found and remembered by each individual as they seek to develop a deep, personal relationship with God. This way, when the preacher has a bad week (and he will), when the song leader leads off-key (and he will), when there are not a lot of people, or the people let us down (and they will), when there are no social events planned – then we can find the cross all on our own.

The “Fear nots” of Christ.

A wonderful homily from Revelation
(Pulpit Commentary)

“Fear not.” This is a characteristic word of the Bible, but especially of the Gospel, and chief of all, of our blessed Lord. For He not only, as in our text, spoke the word many times, but His whole message and mission to mankind was to banish the bondslave fear which had haunted them so long from their minds.

“Fear not is a plant that grows very plentifully in God’s garden. If you look through the flower beds of Scripture, you will continually find by the side of other flowers the sweet ‘Fear nots’ peering out from among doctrines and precepts, even as violets look up from their hiding places of green leaves.” Take any concordance, and count the number of times and note the occasions

where the heart-cheering word or its equivalent occurs, and it will be seen that it is indeed a characteristic word of God to man. From Genesis to Revelation, from earliest patriarch to latest apostle, the sweet echo and reverberation of this word is clearly audible. Dr. Watts’ Catechism says, in its answer to the question, “Who was Isaiah?” “He was the prophet that spoke more of Jesus Christ than all the rest.” And this is so, and for this very reason he is richest in comfort to the people of God, and you will see more of these “Fear nots” in his writings than anywhere else. “They grow like the kingcups and the daisies, and other sweet flowers of the meadows, among which the little children in the springtime delight themselves, and the bank that is the fullest of these beautiful flowers is that which Isaiah has cast up.” But let us listen now to those blessed words spoken by Christ himself, rather than by his Spirit through his prophets.

And first this one in our text (Rev. 1:17 KJV) which **DRIVES AWAY DREAD AND DISMAY IN PRESENCE OF THE DIVINE GLORY.** Not but what there is good reason for such dread at the thought of God. For how stands the case as between our souls and God? We have sinned — there is no doubt about that. And then there rises up before the soul the awful vision of God’s majesty and might and of his wrath against sin. And the dread which this vision causes is deepened as we hear the accusations of conscience, as we listen to the reasonings founded on the necessity of penalty following sin. “Plato, Plato,” said Socrates, “I cannot see how God can forgive sin.” As we observe the reign of law, and note how therein every *“transgression receives its just recompense of reward”* (Hebrews 2:2), all this fills the awakened soul with dread, as indeed it cannot but do. But to such soul Christ comes and says, *“Fear not.”* In many ways He says this; but chief of all by His cross and sacrifice, whereby He shows to us how without dishonour done to the Divine law, but rather with all honour rendered to it, God can “be just and yet the Justifier,” etc. To Him, our Redeemer and Saviour, **let the soul convinced of sin and in dread on account thereof, at once turn, and soon shall be heard, in spite of all accusing, condemning voices, the blessed word of Christ that silences them all, and says to the soul that trusts in Him, “Fear not.”**